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USSR PREPARED FOR SPACE DEMILITARIZATION TALKS

LD061104 Moscow TASS in English 1028 GMT 6 Jul 82

["U.S. Militarists Seeking To Move Arms Race on Into Space" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 6 TASS -- TASS commentator on military matters Vladimir Bogachov writes: The Pentagon has embarked on a course for turning near-earth space into a giant arena for the arms race -- in defiance of an international agreement on the principles of the states' activitity in outer space.

Washington recently adopted a space program, which provides, in particular, for intensive preparations for the development and deployment of anti-satellite arms. Speaking at a ceremony of welcome to the U.S. astronauts who had ridden the Columbia spacecraft on a mission in orbit, U.S. President Reagan declared that his administration would prepare for waging war in space.

Washington's decisions are a violation of the spirit and the letter of a treaty, which is still in force, on limiting anti-missile defences, which provides, in particular, for an unimpeded operation of the national technical means of verification, including satellites, and which bans any interference with them.

The plans for militarising outer space mark a radical departure of the United States from the course pursued by the Nixon, Ford and Carter administrations. The former U.S. Governments, which, it must be said frankly, were nothing loath to spur up the arms race in the fields advantageous for the United States, nevertheless refrained from measures that could turn outer space into a potential battlefield in a nuclear war. Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and James Carter had grounds to share the common belief that an unimpeded operation of surveillance sateilites in outer space is among the essential factors facilitating the stabilisation of the military-political situation in the world.

Western experts proved that any impediments to the operation of surveillance satellites, and the more so attempts to destroy them, might result in a situation where each state, deprived of trustworthy data about the opposing bloc's military preparations, would proceed, in developing its armed forces, from the "worst variant" in its estimates and over-react to any, even if unchecked and unlikely, data. As a result, the arms race might really go out of control and the threat of outbreak of nuclear war would increase dramatically.

When adopting the program for militarising outer space, the Reagan administration, according to a Los Angeles TIMES commentator, did not show any inclination to resume talks on limiting or banning anti-satellite weapons.

The Reagan administration's space-related military plans are further evidence that it is prepared to sacrifice the vital interests also of the United States itself in pursuing its anti-Soviet foreign policy.

Pentagon militarists ought not to count on the USSR allowing them to turn outer space into a U.S. testing range for conducting preparations for war against socialist countries.

At the same time, the Soviet Union will continue in the future as well to exert efforts in order to stop the world's sliding to nuclear war. The USSR, as Soviet leaders have emphasised on more than one occasion, is prepared for talks which would lead to the complete demilitarisation of outer space. This position of the USSR is prompted by its principled objectives in the questions of war and peace.

U.S. MOVES TOWARD NULLIFYING ARMS AGREEMENTS

LD061100 Moscow TASS in English 1051 GMT 6 Jul 82

[Text] Moscow, July 6 TASS -- "Without continuity there can be no consistency either which must be observed in such matters as the limitation of strategic arms," the monthly INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS [MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN] says in its July issue.

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SALT NEGOTIATOR'S DOUBTS OVER START TALKS CITED

PM081527 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Jul 82 p 5

[TASS report: "Two Approaches"]

[Text] Washington, 30 Jun -- The U.S. public has greeted with satisfaction the resumption of the Soviet-U.S. strategic arms limitation and reduction talks in Geneva. "We welcome the beginning of dialogue between the two great powers on the most vital present-day problem since we are convinced that it is a positive step in the cause of improving the international situation," Steve (Degot), a leader of the influential public organization, the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy, stressed in an interview with your TASS correspondent. In this respect he rated highly the Soviet Union's unilateral commitment not to be first to use nuclear weapons which, in his opinion, demonstrates the seriousness of the USSR's approach to the problem of curbing the arms race and promotes the creation of a favorable atmosphere at the Geneva talks.

At the same time, the belief is widespread in the United States that the efforts of the Soviet Union alone are insufficient and that the R. Reagan administration must make a fundamental re-examination of its approach to problems of limiting the nuclear arms race.

"Reagan's proposals," NEWSDAY writes, "are a propagandist ploy aimed at placating public opinion both within the United States itself and in Europe where concern is growing over the administration's bellicose stance."

In an interview on CBS television, G. Smith, former head of the U.S. delegation at the Soviet-U.S. SALT talks, expressed great doubts that any agreement could be reached at all at the Geneva talks under the present Washington administration. "The main reason for this," he stresses, "is the administration's resolve to sharply increase U.S. strategic forces which is directly contrary to the aims of the Geneva talks."

Observers here are drawing attention to the contents of R. Reagan's "letter of instruction" to E. Rowny, head of the U.S. delegation at the talks. On the one hand it indicates the U.S. readiness "to move rapidly toward concluding an agreement on strategic nuclear arms reduction." But on the other it makes another unjustified attempt to cast the responsibility for continuing the arms race on the Soviet Union which, it is alleged, has been conducting a "massive buildup of ballistic missile power" in the last 15 years. In this, the President is removing land-based ICBM's from the general context of the USSR-U.S. strategic balance. By reducing this type of weapon and leaving untouched the systems in which the United States has the advantage it is striving for the effective unilateral disarmament by the Soviet Union. The futility of such an approach is indicated here.

MILITARY EXPERT COMMENTS ON FIRST STRIKE

LD081538 Moscow TASS in English 1525 GMT 8 Jul 82

["There Should Be No First Military Strike" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 8 TASS -- "The aggressive character of the military doctrine of the USA, the stake placed on first strike, on the possibility to win in a nuclear war, remains invariable," points out Major General Rair Simonyan, a noted Soviet military expert.

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COMPARISON OF USTINOV DISARMAMENT ARTICLE

The article by Dmitriy Ustinov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR defense minister, that was reported by Moscow TASS English and published in the 13 July Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page AA 1, is published in Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 12 July, on page 4. Comparison of the two versions produces the following variations:

Page AA 1: PRAVDA omits the first introductory paragraph

Page AA 2, paragraph three, line four reads in PRAVDA; ...others frustrated? The ultimate [konechneya] cause is the .... (changing "initial" to "ultimate")

Same page, paragraph four, line five reads in PRAVDA: ...practical preparations for it are being made.... (changing "its" to "it")

Page AA 3, paragraph four, line one reads in PRAVDA: The points mentioned above.... (changing "moments" to "points")

Same page, penultimate paragraph, line three reads in PRAVDA: "Our aim," U.S. President R. Reagan said recently in Bonn, "is to prevent any war with the help of deterrence." The more massive.... (supplying quotation marks)

Same page, last paragraph, line one reads in PRAVDA: ...by Washington to motivate its refusal to pledge not to make first use.... (inserting "not")

Page AA 5, second paragraph, line two reads in PRAVDA: ....strategic offensive forces, nuclear and.... (changing "armed" to "offensive")

Same page, last paragraph, lines one and two read in PRAVDA: ...prerequisites for a fight to "destroy socialism as a sociopolitical system" (this is what.... (supplying quotation marks)

Same paragraph, starting on line three, PRAVDA reads: ...American nuclear forces "must be superior and be capable of compelling the Soviet Union to agree to the speediest termination of war on terms advantageous for the USA." As U.S. Defense.... (supplying quotation marks)

Page AA 6, first paragraph, line fifteen reads in PRAVDA: ...edge of the "first strike" doctrine of the .... (supplying quotation marks)

Same page, paragraph three, line seven PRAVDA reads: ...progress the world over? For we have had grim.... (changing "as" to "for")

Page AA 7, between the fifth and sixth paragraphs PRAVDA carries this number: 4.

Same page, paragraph seven, penultimate line reads in PRAVDA ...makes it incumbent on all state organs, all Soviet citizens.... (changing "government bodies" to "state organs")

Page AA 9, paragraph three, sentence beginning on line six reads in PRAVDA: Thus in particular the so-called "destabilizing factor" put into circulation by the President of the USA (the factor which is allegedly at the Soviet Union's disposal, but in fact the Pentagon is wishing to have recourse to it) pursues precisely this aim.... (omitting "which")

Page AA 10, last paragraph, line five reads in PRAVDA: ... to such weapons." (supplying quotation marks)

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SIMONYAN CONDEMS FIRST NUCLEAR STRIKE CONCEPT

PM150927 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 28, 9 Jul 82 pp 5-6

[Article by Maj Gen Prof R. Simonyan: "There Must Be No First Strike"; passages in all capitals denote boldface]

[Text] In recent decades, U.S. military doctrine has changed repeatedly. Just one thing has remined unchanged: its aggressive character and gamble on a first strike and the possibility of winning a nuclear war. Strategists across the ocean were already nurturing these schemes back when Washington had a monopoly on nuclear weapons and counted on unleashing general nuclear war in any conflict with the Soviet Union and other socialist community countries. "The United States," Secretary of State John F. Dullesused to brag, "must be prepared to deliver a massive nuclear strike wherever and whenever it considers it necessary to do so." These were not just words. Brookings Institute experts have calculated that from 1946 to 1975 the question of using nuclear weapons was examined seriously by the Pentagon 19 times and in four cases there was talk of a nuclear attack against the USSR.

In the seventies, nuclear arms parity was established between the Soviet Union and the United States and these plans were shelved. Washington has now returned to them and is promoting them in every way. Representatives of the administration, particularly Defense Secretary Weinberger and even President Reagan himself, are arguing that the Soviet Union could deliver a first nuclear strike against the United States and that it must thus be averted. Such speculations are, of course, entirely groundless. If Washington does actually fear this, why does it reject the socialist community countries' proposals on concluding a treaty on not being first to use nuclear weapons?

The growing struggle of the U.S. public at large against the Pentagon's dangerous plans is seriously worrying the White House's present masters, who are stubbornly defending the acceptability of using nuclear weapons. In justifying their actions they resort to various arguments.

FIRST ARGUMENT: The adoption of a proposal on not being first to use nuclear weapons would be tantamount to the United States' permitting the East to invade Europe unhindered using conventional weapons. However, as far back as 1979, the Warsaw Pact countries proposed the conclusion by all the states party to the all-European conference of a treaty on not being first to use either nuclear or conventional weapons against one another. Reagan administration spokesmen deliberately ignore this proposal.

SECOND ARGUMENT: Rejection of the "first strike" concept would require a sharp increase in conventional arms spending and even the introduction of general military conscription in the United States. According to the U.S. rulers' logic, it turns out that the destruction of Europe -- East and West -- is far cheaper. That a dead European is cheaper than a conscripted American. Perhaps this is good business from the military-industrial complex's viewpoint. But from mankind's viewpoint, it is a monstrous crime.

THIRD ARGUMENT: If the United States renounced the first nuclear strike it would allegedly weaken the deterrence factor. Another lie. The strategists across the ocean are not at all concerned with problems of deterrence but with means of committing aggression. And they view a first strike as a way of winning a nuclear war. They are even forming their strategic plans on this premise. On quitting the Pentagon, former U.S. Defense Secretary D Rumsfeld stated categorically: "The most ambitious strategic option dicates the creation of the potential for a decisive first strike against the enemy's offensive forces so as to destroy the largest possible proportion of his megatonnage before he can bring his nuclear facilities into action. The effectiveness of the enemy's remaining retaliatory strike forces which, in theory, should be targeted against industrial and urban targets, would in this respect be further reduced by a combination of active and passive defense."

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CONGRESSMEN CRITICIZE REAGAN ON TEST BAN TALKS

LD212330 Moscow World Service in English 2000 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] President Reagan has announced his decision not to resume the tripartite talks between the United States, the Soviet Union and Britain over a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing, unless the Soviet Union is ready to revise agreements concerning underground nuclear tests and meet American demands. Viktor Olin has this comment:

The President's decision concerns two agreements signed with the Soviet Union in 1974 and 1976 and still unratified by the American Senate. The 1974 agreement limits all underground nuclear tests to 150 kilotons. The 1976 agreement dealing with nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes also banned explosions greater than 150 kilotons. The observance of these two treaties is to be controlled by the national (?controllees) which with the current progress of science, are effective enough. Besides, mutual access to explosion zones was also agreed upon.

The Reagan administration, however, questions the effectiveness of this control system, thus actually denouncing the two agreements. Moreover, it has spread its demands onto agreements that are to be reached yet, torpedoing thereby the tripartite talks on a total nuclear test ban. By so doing the Reagan administration undermines America's reputation as a partner in international relations. This reputation already suffered enough after the United States refused to ratify the SALT II Treaty and started introducing unilaterally all kinds of embargoes and sanctions.

The President's decision alarms the world public as one that may stir up another and even more dangerous round of the nuclear arms race and impair the already existing and operating agreements on arms limitation and control. This is why the President's decision has come under a sharp criticism of various circles in the United States, including Congress circles. Senator Gary Hart maintained that the administration's concerns about verification of the treaties are not shared by the majority of those in the scientific community. Senator Larry Pressler, chairman of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Arms Control, said he was disappointed with Reagan's decision which would jeopardize two valuable accords which, as he said, already contain unprecedented verification provisions. Senator Edward Kennedy said he would introduce a resolution in the Senate calling for immediate resumption of negotiations with Britain and the USSR. I strongly condemn the decision, he said. It casts the greatest doubt on the seriousness of President Reagan's commitment to nuclear arms control, Kennedy said. Senator Alan Cranston stressed that the President's move demonstrates once again the radical nature of the nuclear arms policies of President Reagan. The decision, he said, places emphasis on arms buildup instead of a genuine, equitable and balanced arms reduction.

PENTAGON TRYING TO WIN NUCLEAR ARMS USE DECISION

LD211300 Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] The Pentagon has been battling to win the right to use tactical nuclear weapons in case of a conflict in Western Europe without waiting for presidential sanction. The matter has been debated in the United States Congress at a closed session, the holding of which, as the French news agency reports, has been revealed by member of the House of Representatives Norman Dicks. It has been considered so far that only the United States President decides on the use of nuclear weapons and that he is to notify NATO before it will be used in Europe. However, American generals as it appears regard this procedure as unnecessary; they feel it is just for themselves to decide when to use nuclear weapons to reduce Europe to ruins.

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U.S. MX DEPLOYMENT CONTROVERSY SURVEYED

LD221934 Moscow TASS in English 1830 GMT 22 Jul 82

["MX Missile -- First Strike Weapon" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 22 TASS -- TASS military analyst Vladimir Bogachev writes:

The U.S. House of Representatives has yielded to the pressure of the White House and approved the appropriation of funds for the production of the first nine inter-continental ballistic missiles MX, even without waiting for the Pentagon's final decision on the methods of their deployment.

In the mid-seventies the Pentagon's arguments in favour of deploying MX missiles during the debate on military appropriations in Congress boiled down to the claim that the system would be mobile and this would help resolve the problem of "vulnerability" of the ground-based component of the strategic triad of the USA against the enemy's first strike.

These "arguments" were repeated by representatives of the Pentagon so persistently that several years ago the Congress even passed a decision not to appropriate funds for that missile if it were not mobile.

But as the analysis of the process of making the decision on the system of deployment of inter-continental ballistic missiles MX shows, very few representatives of the Pentagon believed that the Soviet Union could be the first to launch a strike against U. S. ground-based missiles. Nobody was, as a matter of fact, concerned about their invulnerability and correspondingly nobody was interested in their mobility. Way back in March 1976 the Pentagon leaders pointed out in a letter to Senator McIntyre that the "survivability" of MX against enemy attacks is not the most important characteristic of this system. The main function of MX for the Pentagon was the capability to hit targets in the Soviet Union that are the hardest to hit, in delivering the first disarming strike.

It must be pointed out in this connection that the mobility of MX reduces such of its characteristics as accuracy, reliability of control and communication, which are particularly important for launching first strikes against enemy missile silos.

Considering these facts, President Reagan announced in October 1982 [figure as received] his intention to deploy the inter-continental ballistic missiles not in the mobile version, but in the already existing silos for the missiles "Minuteman". Having renounced the function of "invulnerability" and mobility of MX as an unnecessary luxury and having opted for the version of deploying MX in solos, the Reagan administration has laid emphasis on the counter-force potential of that system, i.e., its capability to hit enemy missile silos through increasing the accuracy and reliability of control.

But the Congress, which the Pentagon had long led by the nose when assuring that it was necessary to secure the invulnerability of the inter-continental ballistic missiles, showed obstinacy, quite unexpectedly for President Reagan, in denying for several months funds for the deployment of the stationary missile MX. The Pentagon had to look for versions for the deployment of MX that would accord with the requirements of the first disarming strike concept and at the same time created an illusion of concern of the U.S. top brass about the "vulnerability" of missiles. This has proved to be a no easy problem. At any rate the final version of deployment of MX has not been adopted so far.

Now Reagan has succeeded in scoring his first "victory" on the way of creating a new destabilizing missile system, which is apparently designed for launching the first nuclear strike.

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